

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 125800 TOSEC 050043
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 125800 TOSEC 050043

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASUC 3442 ACTION SECSTATE JUNE 1.

QUOTE S E C R E T DAMASCUS 3442

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, SA, PLO

SUBJECT: PLO RESERVATION OF ITS POSITION ON REFUGEE WORDING
RES 242

REFS: (A) DAMASCUS 3021, (B) STATE 124677

1. I PASSED YOUR MESSAGE PARA 2 REF (B) TO PRESIDENT'S
POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDY MORNING JUNE 1. HE TOOK CAREFUL
NOTES AND SAID HE WOULD ADVISE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY.

2. IN COURSE OF BRIEFING HIM ON FAHD VISIT (STATE 124676),
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PAGE 02 STATE 125800 TOSEC 050043

IT EMERGED THAT DAOUDY DID NOT KNOW WHETHER AL-ASSAD HAD AT
ANY TIME SUBSEQUENT TO ISRAELI ELECTIONS RELAYED TO ARAFAT OUR
IDEA OF PLO RESERVATION OF ITS POSITION ON REFUGEE WORDING OF 242.
DAOUDY SAID HE ASSUMED WE REALIZED THAT, ONCE SADAT WAS BRIEFED
ABOUT FAHD VISIT ALONG LINES REF (B), EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT WAS LIKELY
TO REFER PUBLICLY TO POINT AFFECTING PLO, PERHAPS DESCRIBING
IT AS HIS OWN IDEA. I REPLIED THAT THE RISK OF PUBLICITY

INEVITABLY INCREASED AS WE BROADENED THE CIRCLE OF THOSE WHO KNEW ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SUGGESTION. I NOTED WE HAD NOT ASKED SADUIS OR ANY PARTY OTHER THAN SYRIA TO PURSUE IT WITH THE PLO.

3. LATER IN MEETING WITH KHADDAM ABOUT FAHD VISIT, I DISCUSSED YOUR MESSAGE PRIAVETLY WITH HIM AFTER INTERPRETER HAD BEEN DISMISSED. HADDAM'S REACTION WAS SURPRISING: HE ASKED WHETHER OUR INTENTION WAS TO SECURE A FORMAL AMENDMENT OF SC RES 242. I SAID WE HAD NO SUCH INTENTION AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION RAN IN JUST THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

4. COMMENT:

IT IS THUS UNCLEAR WHAT, IF ANY, ACTION AL-ASSAD MAY HAVE TAKEN WITH ARAFAT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S REQUEST SUBSEQUENT TO ISRAELI ELECTIONS. IF WE WANT A READING ON THIS, WE MUST GO TO AL-ASSAD HIMSELF. I EXPECT SEE PRESIDENT MONDAY, JUNE 6 WHEN I ACCOMPANY SENATOR STONE ON HIS CALL. DO YOU WISH ME TO ASK AL-ASSAD PRIVATELY AFTER THE MEETING WHETHER HE HAD AS YET SPOKEN TO ARAFAT AND, IF SO, WHAT ARAFAT'S REACTION WAS?
MURPHY. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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